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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,944

11/24/2003

Craig L. Reding

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10/10/2008

VERIZON

PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

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EXAMINER

ADDY, THUAN KNOWLIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/10/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@VERIZON.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/720,944	Applicant(s) REDING ET AL.	
	Examiner THJUAN K. ADDY	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/10/2008; 07/22/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on June 24, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-34 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frey et al. (US 6,535,596), in view of Bartholomew et al. (US 6,167,119).

3. In regards to claims 1, 12, 23, and 34, Frey discloses a method and system for managing a communications line associated with a plurality of users of a communications network, comprising: receiving first user line management information (e.g., preferences) specifying handling of calls directed to the communications line from a contact in a first address book (e.g., list of directory numbers provided by selective call forwarding (SCF) and selective call rejection), the first address book associated with the first user (See Fig. 1 and called party 110); receiving second user line management

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information (e.g., preferences) specifying handling of calls to the communications line from a contact in a second address book (e.g., list of directory numbers provided by selective call forwarding (SCF) and selective call rejection), the second address book associated with the second user (See Fig. 1 and calling party 105); receiving from the communications network information regarding a call directed to the communications line; determining a handling procedure for the call based on the received first and second user line management information; and transmitting to the communications network instructions regarding the determined handling procedure, such that the communications network handles the call in accordance with the determined handling procedure (See Abstract, col. 1-2 lines 63-22, and col. 11 lines 15-29). Frey, however, does not disclose receiving first user line management information, for a *first user of the communications line* and receiving second user line management information, for a *second user of the communications line*. Bartholomew, however, does disclose receiving first user (e.g., first subscriber sharing the single directory number) line management information (e.g., stored pattern information/stored template data/profile information), for a *first user of the communications line* and receiving second user (e.g., second subscriber sharing the single directory number) line management information (e.g., stored pattern information/stored template data/profile information), for a *second user of the communications line* (See Abstract, col. 14 lines 27-43, col. 20-21 lines 50-6, col. 31 lines 21-43, and col. 40 lines 8-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these limitations within the method, as a way of providing enhanced services, on a personalized basis, to

multiple subscribers using the same line.

4. In regards to claims 2, 13, and 24, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call received on the communications line includes receiving information from a service control point providing services to a switch associated with the communications line (See col. 4 lines 12-27).

5. In regards to claims 3, 14, and 25, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving from the communications network information regarding a call includes receiving information identifying an origination of the call; and wherein determining a handling procedure includes determining a handling procedure based on the information identifying the origination of the call (See col. 7-8 lines 59-9 and col. 10 lines 14-19).

6. In regards to claims 4, 15, and 26, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to a different communications line (See col. 10 lines 4-10 and col. 10 lines 20-31).

7. In regards to claims 5, 16, and 27, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding handling calls based on the time the call is received (See col. 10 lines 14-16).

8. In regards to claims 6, 17, and 28, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to one or more processors providing voice mail services (See col. 8

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lines 58-64).

9. In regards to claims 7, 18, and 29, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding forwarding calls to at least one processor for playing an audible signal indicating unavailability of the communications line (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

10. In regards to claims 8, 19, and 30, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving first user line management information includes receiving a request to forward a notification regarding a call to a first device associated with the first user (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

11. In regards to claims 9, 20, and 31, Frey discloses the method and system, further comprising: receiving, in response to the notification, an instruction regarding handling of the call; and wherein the determined handling procedure is based on the received instruction (See col. 9 lines 30-41).

12. In regards to claims 10, 21, and 32, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein receiving line management information includes receiving information regarding a first handling procedure, information regarding a secondary handling procedure, and information useful for determining whether to apply the primary or secondary handling procedure; and wherein determining a handling procedure of the call includes determining whether to handle the call using the primary or secondary handling procedure (See col. 10 lines 4-19).

13. In regards to claims 11, 22, and 33, Frey discloses the method and system, wherein the receiving line management information includes receiving information

regarding handling of calls based upon information regarding a location of the first or second user (See col. 10 lines 14-17).

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gross et al. (US 6,748,054) teach a single telephone number access to multiple communications services. Gross et al. (US Patent Application, Pub. No.: US 2004/0208305 A1) teach multiple routing options in a telecommunications service platform.

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

17. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THJUAN K. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thjuan K. Addy/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614

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